



Our Lady of Lourdes



Assembly 2143

Volume 2, Issue 7

May 2007

FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

Deacon Vincent Ricciardi

Black Sheep??

Let me first start out saying I hope everyone had a very Blessed Easter. Now let's see how long it takes Spring to come and go!

Each month I try to call members who have not attended a meeting or that I have not met. This past month I spoke with two Brother Sir Knights and they stated that they were not attending meetings because they do not like someone who is at the meetings. Well, my questions to both of them: Is that Christian? Would Jesus do that? And is that what you were taught when you became a Knight? I remember all my degrees and the one that always comes to the top is **UNITY!** Without unity you have nothing!!! We are men of the Catholic faith and Knights of Columbus and all the pettiness must be put to the side. If someone attends meetings you do not care for stay away from that person, not the meetings or events that we are running for the good of the Assembly or Council, you are hurting the entire Knights of Columbus by doing so.

Each and every one of the members has something to offer and to give to the Knights as well as the Church, so come on back and be the MEN that I know you are.

Now on to something a little lighter. Many of us have had an experience in which we felt like the lone black sheep in a vast sea of white sheep. For some of us, however, this sense of not belonging runs more deeply and spans a period of many years. It is possible to feel like the black sheep in families and peer groups that are supportive, as well as in those that are not. Even if we receive no overt criticism regarding our values, there will likely be times when it seems that relatives and friends are humoring us or waiting for us to grow out of a phase. Sometimes we may even think we have been adopted because we are so different from our family members. These feelings are not a sign that we have failed in some way to connect with others.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** *Faithful Navigators Message*
- 3** *Faithful Captain's Message*
- 3** *Council Activities*
- 4** *Faithful Comptrollers Report*
- 4** *Color Corps Commanders Message*
- 7** *Warren's World*

Assembly Schedule:

Meetings 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 7, 2007

Monday, June 4, 2007

Monday, July 2, 2007

FAITHFUL NAVIGATORS MESSAGE (cont)

Sometimes we may even think we have been adopted because we are so different from our family members. These feelings are not a sign that we have failed in some way to connect with others. Rather, they should be perceived as the natural result of our willingness to articulate our individuality.

Many black sheep respond to the separateness they feel by pulling back from the very people to whom they might otherwise feel closest and embracing a different group with whom they enjoy a greater degree of commonality. But if you feel that your very nature has set you apart from your peers and relatives, consider that you chose long ago to be raised by a specific family and to come together with specific people so that you could have certain experiences that would contribute to your ongoing growth. You may be much more sensitive than the people around you or more artistic, aware, spiritual, or imaginative.

The disparate temperament of your values and those of your family or peers need not be a catalyst for interpersonal conflict. If you can move beyond comparisons and accept these differences, you will come to appreciate the significant role your upbringing and socialization have played in your life's unique journey.

In time, most black sheep learn to embrace their differences and be thankful for those aspects of their individuality that set them apart from others. We cannot expect that our peers and relatives will suddenly choose to embrace our values and offer us the precise form of support we need. But we can acknowledge the importance of these individuals by devoting a portion of our energy to keeping these relationships healthy while continuing to define our own identities apart from them. Each and everyone one of us is a special gift from God and we are all different yet made the same. We have Free Will to do as we think is right for us and many times our families. We stumble and fall, God picks us up. We dust ourselves off and we give it another try. Yes, there will always be someone or two in your life that will try and knock you to the ground as often as then can. **You are strong! And can over come anything and anyone!**

All we have to do is keep our head high and know we are not the Black Sheep but someone very special, to our family and real friends and most of all to God. Special gifts and talents are God given graces and there will always be someone, somewhere to question your abilities.

So be proud of whom you are and what you can accomplish, we Black Sheep know what we can and can not do. It many seem difficult at times but we get the job done sometimes not in a conventional way but a way that is ours alone. No one can do what you only you can do, it's your style, it's your gift so keep on going and share your special talent with everyone.

We also have to remember "You can chose your friends but not your family". Life is like a deck of cards and we have to play out the hand that we were dealt. In the end the Black Sheep come out on the winning side. Loved and cared for and even understood, it many take many years but in time people will say "Now I know what he or she meant."

Now that spring is almost here, just as flowers bloom new, let us who serve God, Church and the Knights of Columbus bloom new as well. Attend meeting, get involved and take action all in our Catholic name.

As I come to the end of my term as Faithful Navigator I look at all the good men that helped me this year and the loss of three good members due to moving. Ernie Rossi, Mike Urso and the Great Warren Frey. I hope that they know they will always be in our hearts and prayers.

Always look up and see the SON and fell the warmth only he can give off. Know that you are special and are loved.

Please continue to Prayer for our Military and their families.

May God bless you and your families,

Deacon Vincent P. Ricciardi, Sr.

Faithful Navigator

Faithful Captains Message

I was perusing the Master's website (www.secondnjdistrict.org) the other day and came across the following statement about membership:

“Membership Initiatives. There are four initiatives that I am implementing in the District in an effort to boost membership. They are:

1. I want each assembly to have a membership chairman. That chairman should work closely with the Financial Secretaries of the affiliated councils to get contact information on members that have taken the third degree recently, so that there can be timely follow-up to get that person to sign a Form 4. Please let my Secretary know the name, address, and telephone number of your membership chairman.

2. Proposers should talk about the fourth degree when the prospective member signs the Form 100, and these prospects should be encouraged to take all four degrees within twelve (12) months (as long as there is at least a six month gap between the first degree and the fourth).

3. A person should speak about the fourth degree to newly knighted members after the third degrees exemplified in your diocese. We must keep the momentum going in the recruitment process. If we wait, and that member becomes disinterested in the Order and is ultimately suspended, that prospective candidate is lost forever!

4. Assemblies should designate one member from each affiliate council to speak at that council's meetings about assembly activities. In that way, prospective members of that council can be informed of the activities of the fourth degree and therefore, hopefully, be more interested in joining. Reciprocally, a designated representative of each council should be encouraged to speak at assembly meetings about the activities of that council. “

What this tells us is that we should start from Day One: When a prospect FIRST sign his form 100 Membership Document and continue through when a 3rd Degree Knight makes his 4th Degree. How do we get more members into our Assembly? We ASK them!!

Bernard J. Ernst
Faithful Captain

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Council 3826 - May 8 - Business Meeting - 8 p.m.

**Council 7926 - May 10 - Business Meeting - 8 p.m.
May 13 - Communion Breakfast**

**Council 8415 - May 1 - Business Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
May 8 - First Degree - 8 p.m.
May 15 - Social Meeting - 6:30 p.m.**

Council 11527 - May 3 - Business Meeting - 8 p.m.

**Ocean County Chapter - May 14 - Business Meeting - Council 6201 - 8 p.m.
May 18 - 20 State Convention Wildwood
Chapter will be staying at the Reges Oceanfront Hotel - Wildwood Crest**

Faithful Comptrollers Message

Brothers,

May is here, and with it comes Spring, a time for renewal and joy. Flowers bloom and, unfortunately, so do allergies, so be careful.

Most of the members of the Assembly have paid their dues already, and for that I thank you. Unfortunately, there are 2 members that have not paid their dues yet, and they will be getting letters from us, again, requesting they send in their dues. I would like to be able to report in the next issue that they have paid, hopefully they will.

We have a few applicants for the Exemplification in November. I will be blocking out some rooms at the Sheraton in Eatontown for the Exemplification weekend. Anyone wishing to join us should call me and I will send them the form to fill out for reserving a room in their name. Let's show the newest Sir Knights and their Ladies how proud we all are to be members of Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly. Join us in welcoming them to our Assembly.

I hope to see you all at the meetings and our events.

Don't forget to check out our website @ www.kofc-a2143.org

John A. Gazis, P.F.N.

Faithful Comptroller

COLOR CORPS COMMANDERS REPORT

My Brother Sir Knights,

This month we will have a few callouts and I would ask that the Color Corps members come out and join us. The following dates are for the First Holy Communions in Lakewood,:

May 5, 2007	-	10:00AM	-	Holy Family Church Lakewood
May 6, 2007	-	10:00AM	-	Holy Family Church Lakewood
May 12, 2007	-	12:00PM	-	Saint Mary of The Lake (Polish).

The following weekend is the State Convention in Wildwood, and the Color Corps in needed there also. The opening Mass will be Friday morning at 9a.m. at St. Ann's Church in Wildwood. Please be there by 8:30a.m. After Mass, there will be breakfast at the Convention Center, after which there is a wreath laying ceremony at the Christopher Columbus Monument. After that, we will be escorting the State Officers into the chamber for the Opening of the Convention.

The closing Mass will be Saturday at Assumption Church in Wildwood Crest at 5p.m.

Please try to attend these important ceremonies.

Anyone wishing to join the Color Corps can call me at (609) 597-1197.

Edward F. Kelly, K.H.S., P.F.N.

Color Corps Commander

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating birthdays during the month of May:

- May 3** - S.K. Edward F. Kelly, K.H.S.; P.F.N.
- May 4** - Lady Elizabeth Rastelli
- May 11** - Lady Roberta Niesz
- May 13** - S.K. Bryan J. Dickerson
- May 15** - S.K. Thomas Tamburo
- May 17** - Lady Margaret Ernst
- May 18** - S.K. Adalbert Eipert
- May 21** - S.K. Thomas W. Niesz
- May 23** - S.K. Joseph Murphy
- May 24** - S.K. Gary L. Rhodes
- May 30** - Lady Teri Beaugard

=====

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating birthdays during the month of June:

- June 1** - Lady Daisy Ricciardi
- June 8** - S.K. Frank M. Cicalese
- June 11** - S.K. Robert F. Brogan
- June 12** - S.K. Thomas H. Applegate
- June 13** - S.K. Warren C. Frey
- June 17** - S.K. John A. Fiore
- June 25** - S.K. Kenneth L. Sarro
- June 26** - S.K. Joseph J. Rastelli

=====

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating birthdays during the month of July:

- July 7** - S.K. Philip A. Valesse
- July 9** - S.K. Robert Morris
- July 14** - S.K. Ernest A. Rossi
- July 15** - Lady Audrey Coty
- July 19** - S.K. Bernard J. Ernst
- July 30** - Lady Alice O'Brien

Wedding Anniversaries

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during the month of May:

- May 4 - Lady Kathy and Sir Knight Anthony DeCresci
May 15 - Lady Nancy and Sir Knight George Dormanski

=====

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during the month of June:

- June 10 - Lady Elizabeth and Sir Knight Joseph Rastelli
June 21 - Lady Alice and Sir Knight Joseph O'Brien
June 29 - Lady Mary and Sir Knight Robert Murray, P.F.N.

=====

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during the month of July:

- July 24 - Lady Collette and Sir Knight Kenneth Sarro

=====

The following Sir Knights and Ladies will be celebrating a Wedding Anniversary during the month of August:

- Aug. 6 - Lady Annette and Sir Knight Sal Lotartaro

Assembly Officer's

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
<u>Faithful Navigator</u>	<u>S.K. Vincent Ricciardi</u>	<u>faithfulnavigator @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Captain</u>	<u>S.K. Bernard Ernst</u>	<u>faithfulcaptain @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Pilot</u>	<u>S.K. Gary Rhodes</u>	<u>faithfulpilot@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Scribe</u>	<u>S.K. Robert Kehoe</u>	<u>faithfulscribe @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Admiral</u>	<u>S.KS.K Frank Cicalese</u>	<u>faithfuladmiral @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Comptroller</u>	<u>S.K. John Gazis, P.F.N.</u>	<u>faithfulcomptroller @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Purser</u>	<u>S.K. Albert DelTufo</u>	<u>faithfulpurser @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Inner Sentinel</u>	<u>S.K. Mark Brown</u>	<u>faithfulsentinel @kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful Outer Sentinel</u>	<u>S.K. Bryan Harper</u>	<u>faithful3yrtrustee@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful 3 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Warren Frey</u>	<u>faithful2yrtrustee@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful 2 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Richard Mastronardi</u>	<u>faithful1yrtrustee@kofc-a2143.org</u>
<u>Faithful 1 Yr Trustee</u>	<u>S.K. Bryan Dickerson</u>	
<u>Color Corps Commander</u>	<u>S.K. Edward Kelly, K.H.S.</u>	

WARRENS WORLD

The other day I was reading Newsweek magazine and came across some poll data I found rather hard to believe. It must be true given the source, right? Musings by Jay Leno.....looks like he is not always looking for a laugh.

The Newsweek poll alleges that 67 percent of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed and 69 percent of the country is unhappy with the performance of the president. In essence 2/3s of the citizenry just ain't happy and want a change.

So being the knuckle dragger I am, I started thinking, "What we are so unhappy about?"

Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter? Could it be that 95.4 percent of these unhappy folks have a job? Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we move through each state? Or possibly the hundreds of clean and safe motels we would find along the way that can provide temporary shelter? I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough. Or could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all and even send a helicopter to take you to the hospital.

Perhaps you are one of the 70 percent of Americans who own a home. You may be upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames thus saving you, your family and your belongings. Or if, while at home watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes, an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss. This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents. Neighborhoods where 90 percent of teenagers own cell phones and computers.

How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world? Maybe that is what has 67 percent of you folks unhappy.

Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen. No wonder the world loves the U.S., yet has a great disdain for its citizens. They see us for what we are. The most t blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we don't have, and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

I know, I know. What about the president who took us into war and has no plan to get us out? The president who has a measly 31 percent approval rating? Is this the same president who guided the nation in the dark days after 9/11? The president that cut taxes to bring an economy out of recession? Could this be the same guy who has been called every name in the book for succeeding in keeping all the spoiled ungrateful brats safe from terrorist attacks?

The commander in chief of an all-volunteer army that is out there defending you and me? Did you hear how bad the President is on the news or talk show? Did this news affect you so much, make you so unhappy you couldn't take a look around for yourself and see all the good things and be glad?

Think about it.....are you upset at the President because he actually caused you personal pain OR is it because the "Media" told you he was failing to kiss your sorry ungrateful behind every day.

Make no mistake about it The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have volunteered to serve, and in many cases may have died for your freedom. There is currently no draft in this country They didn't have to go.

So why then the flat-out discontentment in the minds of 69 percent of Americans? Say what you want but I blame it on the media. If it bleeds it leads and they specialize in bad news. Everybody will watch a car crash with blood and guts. How many will watch kids selling lemonade at the corner? The media knows this and media outlets are for-profit corporations. They offer what sells, and when criticized, try to defend their actions by "justifying" them in one way or another. Just ask why they tried to allow a murderer like O.J. Simpson to write a book about how he d idn't kill his wife, but if he did he would have done it this way.....Insane!

Stop buying the negativism you are fed everyday by the media. Shut off the TV, burn Newsweek, and use the New York Times for the bottom of your bird cage. Then start being grateful for all we have as a country. There is exponentially more good than bad.




















We are among the most blessed people on Earth and should thank God several times a day, or at least be thankful and appreciative.

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, "Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Month	Week	Day
-------	------	-----

◀ May 2007 ▶

[Go To Today](#) [Refresh](#)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	May 1  7:30pm Council meeting 8415 	2	3  8pm Council Meeting 11527 	4	5
6	7  7:30pm MEETING - Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly 	8	9  7:30pm Council Meeting 8160 	10  8pm COUNCIL MEETING 7926 	11	12
13  Mother's Day Breakfast 	14  8pm CHAPTER MEETING 	15  6:30pm Council 8415 	16	17  8pm Council Meeting 11527 	18  State Convention - Wildwood 	19  State Convention - Wildwood 
20  State Convention - Wildwood 	21	22	23  8:30pm Council Social Meeting 8160 	24  8pm COUNCIL SOCIAL MEETING 7926 	25	26
27	28  Memorial Day 	29	30	31	Jun 1	2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28 🗓️ Memorial Day 📄	29	30	31	Jun 1	2
3	4 🗓️ 7:30pm MEETING - Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly 📄	5 🗓️ 7:30pm Council meeting 8415 📄	6	7 🗓️ 8pm Council Meeting 11527 📄	8	9
10 🗓️ Breakfast 📄	11 🗓️ 8pm CHAPTER MEETING 📄	12	13 🗓️ 7:30pm Council Meeting 8160 📄	14 🗓️ 8pm Council Meeting 7926	15	16
17 🗓️ Father's Day 📄	18	19 🗓️ 6pm Council 8415 Installation of Officers	20	21 🗓️ 8pm Council Meeting 11527 📄	22 🗓️ 7pm District Deputy Meeting	23 🗓️ Grand Knights Meeting
24	25 🗓️ 8pm District 31 Meeting	26	27 🗓️ 8:30pm Council Social Meeting 8160 📄	28 🗓️ 8pm COUNCIL SOCIAL MEETING 7926 📄	29	30

